



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **ICE DEPORTS RWANDAN GENOCIDE PERPETRATOR**

*This is the first person found inadmissible to the U.S. based on genocide*

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. — A Rwandan man who committed acts of genocide in his home country and subsequently tried to illegally enter the United States was deported today by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention and removal officers.

The case marks the first time an individual has been determined to be inadmissible to the United States for having engaged in genocide.

Enos Iragaba Kagaba, 50, a citizen of Rwanda, was arrested in December 2001 at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. He was initially charged with attempting to enter the United States without valid entry documents, and also with fraud for misrepresenting his identity.



A subsequent in-depth investigation conducted both domestically and abroad by special agents with the former Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) uncovered evidence that Kagaba had committed acts of genocide during the 1994 war in Rwanda that killed 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

Kagaba requested a hearing before a federal immigration judge, who ultimately sustained the genocide charge in August 2003, as well as the charge that he did not have valid entry documents. That ruling was appealed to the Board of Immigration Appeals in Falls Church, Va., which issued a Sept. 17 decision sustaining the lower court's ruling regarding the genocide and lack of valid documents charges. Kagaba filed a petition for review with the 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals, which was denied Nov. 5.

Kagaba left the Twin Cities, Minn., Wednesday and arrived in Rwanda today about 1 p.m. Rwanda time (6 a.m. CST), where he was turned over to authorities.

“The United States will not be a safe haven for human rights abusers,” said Mona M. Ragheb, Chief of ICE’s Human Rights Law Division (HRLD). “Those who persecute others have no right to seek protection in the United States.”

Congress added genocide to the grounds of inadmissibility in 1990 under section 212(a)(3)(E)(ii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. ICE lawyers litigate numerous cases before the Immigration Court system to ensure that the United States does not allow those who commit human rights violations to lawfully enter or reside in our country.

Kagaba was originally apprehended at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport by INS inspectors, who are now officers with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) under the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). When the INS was dissolved in 2003, jurisdiction for the continued investigation and prosecution of the Kagaba case transferred to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the largest investigative arm of DHS.

This enforcement action is part of ICE's commitment to deny safe haven in the United States to international human rights violators by identifying, investigating, prosecuting and removing them from the country and by preventing violators from entering the country. ICE seeks to restore integrity to America's immigration system by ensuring that those who have committed crimes against humanity do not receive the benefits of legal immigration status in America and are brought to justice.

Many of the most egregious human rights violators residing in the United States are living and working among some of their victims who have sought asylum and refugee status in the United States. While there are no official estimates, research by several non-governmental organizations suggests that there may be several hundred suspected human rights violators currently residing in the United States. Many human rights violators have come to the United States in an effort to evade prosecution and punishment for their crimes committed in their home countries.

ICE is making great strides to bring human rights abusers in the United States to justice. ICE attorneys are currently tracking and litigating more than 900 cases involving human rights violators from more than 60 countries in immigration courts nationwide.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*